

Lilly, for her dedication to her country. In 1944 Mrs. McCabe was honored as "America's Number One War Mother" because 10 of her sons were serving in the military. Another son enlisted in 1945. We were honored to have present for the ceremony, two of her sons, Leo and James McCabe, who served in World War II.

In the summer of 1944, Leo McCabe was serving in the Army in Normandy after the D-Day invasion. On a very hot day in France, a German fighter plane came over the town and saw a number of gas trucks moving down the road. The Germans hit the lead truck with a rocket, causing it to ignite. While the driver of the truck was able to escape, a young boy who was with him was caught in the flames.

Leo McCabe left the crowd and ran into the flames, the only person willing to risk his life to save the boy. McCabe emerged from the truck with the boy in his arms and McCabe's own clothing on fire, as well as the boy's. McCabe carried the boy to a field, where the flames were extinguished. He then put the young man into a jeep to be rushed to a hospital. Leo McCabe saved the boy's life with this action.

Earlier this year, when asked to comment on his actions for a local newspaper reporter, Leo McCabe said simply "That was no big deal," and when asked on May 29th to address the crowd at the ceremony, Leo McCabe chose not to make a comment and sat proudly with his family. When given the opportunity, Mrs. McCabe's other son who was present, James McCabe, did step up to the microphone, pointed his hand to his left, said "I worked at that mine over there," and then sat down.

Like thousands of Americans who were called upon to serve their country in World War II, these three men: James Lego, Leo McCabe, and James McCabe, answered that call and served their country proudly. After the war, they returned home, went to work in the steel mills or in the coal mines like James did, and life went on.

It was a distinct honor for me to be able to recognize on this occasion the sacrifices made by James Lego and the entire McCabe family in fighting for our freedom in World War II.

#### ADVANCES MADE IN FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY LAW

### HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an important anniversary. On this date last year, President Clinton signed the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-185) into law. Among the many important programs that were created and improved by the bill, I am most proud of the advances made in federal food safety efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform Congress of the progress made by the food safety Crisis Management Team created by the Agricultural Research bill. We all remember the terrible tragedy of the contaminated

strawberries served by schools as part of the National School Lunch Program. Some of those contaminated strawberries were eaten by students in my district. Although local and federal officials did an excellent job of responding to the crisis, it became clear to me that there was a need for better coordination of existing federal resources to respond to food safety outbreaks. Shortly thereafter, I introduced the Safe Food Action Plan, H.R. 3148. My bill made food safety a priority for the federal government and created a food safety Rapid Response Team. After working closely with Agriculture Committee leadership, the Rapid Response Team provision was included in the final version of the Agricultural Research bill. I would like to include in the RECORD, a letter from Ranking Member STENHOLM thanking me for my contributions to the bill.

Since that time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has instituted the Food Emergency Rapid Response and Evaluation Team (FERRET). The mission of FERRET is twofold. The team works together to facilitate a prompt, effective and coordinated USDA response to food safety emergencies. Furthermore, the team evaluates emergency episodes and uses what is learned from each crisis to improve long-term strategies to prevent future emergencies.

FERRET is chaired by the Under Secretary for Food Safety and its membership includes: the Under Secretary for Food Nutrition and Consumer Services, the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, USDA General Counsel, the USDA Inspector General and the Director of the Office of Communication.

During the past year, FERRET has met whenever levels of contaminants pose a threat to human health and safety. In just one year, FERRET has dramatically increased the pace at which USDA responds to public health problems. The new team ensures a swift response by USDA to contamination and provides a greater assurance to American consumers that their food is safe.

I am proud of the very positive accomplishments achieved by FERRET in just one year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts. I look forward to working with FERRET on future food safety efforts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, June 23, 1999.

Hon. DEBBIE STABENOW,  
House of Representatives,  
Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR DEBBIE: One year ago, President Clinton signed the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 into law (Pub. L. 105-185). On this anniversary, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your important contributions to this bill in the area of food safety.

A significant amount of debate on the bill focused on food safety concerns. Your input, based on the expertise of Michigan State University and the National Center for Food Safety and Toxicology research in your district, contributed significantly to the debate. I would particularly like to thank you for your contribution regarding the Food Safety Crisis Management Team.

Last year, you introduced the Safe Food Action Plan (H.R. 3148) to create a Food Safety Rapid Response team, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), to respond to food safety disasters. Your bill helped focus the Committee's attention on this issue, resulting in the inclusion of a similar crisis management team in the final version of the Agriculture Research bill.

Through your efforts, the USDA has created the Food Emergency Rapid Response and Evaluation Team (FERRET). During the past year, the team has met whenever levels of contaminants in food threaten to pose a human health hazard. As you know, they have effectively handled a variety of problems ranging from arsenic in peanut butter to lead in baby food. This is an important tool for the USDA to have in the area of food safety.

Let me also thank you for your important contributions to the overall issue of food safety. I look forward to our continued friendship and to working together on the Agriculture Committee. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. STENHOLM,  
Ranking Member.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HECTOR GODINEZ

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a great man. We have lost Hector Godinez to illness but his spirit will live on in Santa Ana.

Hector was born at the San Diego Mission in 1924. A year later, his family moved to Santa Ana and that became his home. Immediately after high school, he joined the military and served with distinction. The battles he fought in, including the invasion of France, led to the Allies' victory in Europe during World War II. He was revered for his service in General Patton's tank unit. His decorations include a bronze star and purple heart.

When Mr. Godinez came home from the war, he decided to continue his record of public service as a letter carrier. President Kennedy appointed him Postmaster of Santa Ana in 1960. His employment with the U.S. Postal Service spanned nearly half a century.

But I would do his memory a disservice if I neglected to mention the many other contributions Hector made to our community. As a founding member of the Santa Ana League of United Latin American Citizens, Mr. Godinez and his fellow activists are to be thanked for the landmark civil rights case Mendez v. The Board of Education, which safeguarded the Hispanic children of Orange County against discrimination in local schools.

Hector never stopped fighting, giving or learning. He held a number of degrees, including his Masters', which he received in 1980. His name will forever be associated with the long list of community organizations and boards on which he served.

He guided our citizens through decades of change in Southern California, both as a public servant and an activist. Our lives as Orange County residents are better for his life's work, and I salute him today.